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TELEGRAM

June 02, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1826 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: PREL  
Captions: None  
Subject: TRAINING OF IRAQI POLICE IN THE UAE TEMPORARILY ON HOLD  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L                    ABU DHABI 01826

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO ECON AMB DCM P/M

DISSEMINATION: POL  
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APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4612  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE  
RHMFSS/HQ COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTH BAGHDAD  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0077

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001826

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/NGA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/14  
TAGS: PREL IZ TC  
SUBJECT: Training of Iraqi police in the UAE  
temporarily on hold

Ref: Abu Dhabi 219

Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for reasons  
1.5 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: German federal police have trained two batches of Iraqi criminal police at the Al Ain police school since last March, but further training of Iraqi police under German auspices has been suspended to give Iraq's new authorities an opportunity to evaluate their needs to ensure effective training programs. Both the UAE and the German government are in favor of continuing the training, but the UAEG wants the new Iraqi Ministry of Interior to evaluate the program and identify their needs and priorities before the training

resumes. End Summary.

¶2. (C) Last March, the German federal police began training 129 criminal police officers and members of Baghdad's Institute of Criminal Technology (see reftel). Germany paid for the training expenses and for a dozen German police experts, while the UAE covered local expenses (e.g. training facilities and accommodations for trainees), as well as the cost of transporting the Iraqis aboard C-130s between Iraq and the UAE. All the training took place at the Al Ain police school. There were two parts to the training: forensics and crime scene investigation. The German police, comparable to the FBI, gave each of the Iraqi participants a crime scene investigation kit as part of the training, and to take back to Iraq with them. The Iraqis also visited the UAE's state-of-the-art police laboratory and saw demonstrations of cutting-edge equipment and machinery.

Selection of appropriate candidates important

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¶3. (C) Shaykh Saif bin Zayed, U/S of the Ministry of Interior, told the Ambassador on May 30 that the UAE was disappointed with the lack of coordination between the Germans, Iraqis, and CPA. He said that the Iraqi trainees selected for these first programs were clearly too senior for the training courses offered. The UAE was counting on the Germans to coordinate closely with both the Iraqis and the CPA but clearly that had not happened. He told the Ambassador that the UAE has reached out directly to the Iraqis and asked them to provide them with their priorities so the programs can be designed according to their needs. Shaykh Saif commented that while the Iraqis were senior in rank, the training assumed they had facilities and laboratories which they do not have, and hence there would need to be some linkage between the training and what they have to work with in terms of facilities in Iraq.

¶4. (C) Germany's Ambassador to the UAE, Jurgen Stelzer, told Polchief on May 31 that the first batch of Iraqis included about 30 lieutenant colonels and colonels, higher-ranking officers who were ill at ease in classrooms with junior officers. "Back home (in Iraq), they were used to giving orders," Stelzer said. The higher-ranking officers also were upset that they could not leave the police school compound in Al Ain for a leisure outing to Dubai. The Germans and Emiratis ironed out these wrinkles by the time the second batch of 92 Iraqi police (100 had been expected but the eight officers from Fallujah had to stay in Iraq during the siege in that city) came to the UAE. The second batch comprised junior officers from the different Iraqi provinces. The result was a much smoother training experience, Stelzer said. Everyone agreed that in the future, greater care should be taken to select appropriate candidates for the training.

¶5. (C) Stelzer, who visited the Al Ain police school during the training, and accompanied a German parliamentary delegation to the facility, said the Iraqis displayed a considerable degree of self-confidence. Germans and Emiratis alike "thought it was a very good project," Stelzer said. The Iraqis' main complaint was that under the current system in Iraq, they enjoy little autonomy. "They have to do what they are told to do" by the CPA, Stelzer said. "That causes a problem for them (the Iraqi police) when they have to deal with people on the street" because Iraqi citizens question the police officers' authority.

Project on hold awaiting a political decision

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¶6. (C) The UAE has decided to suspend further German training of Iraqi police on UAE soil until Iraq's sovereign Interior Ministry can evaluate the training to determine whether it should be continued. There will be no more training at this stage, but we will assess the results of the training in the next three months before deciding what the next steps will be, the Arabic daily "Al-Ittihad" newspaper quotes UAE Interior Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Saif bin Zayed Al-Nahyan as saying. Stelzer said the postponement may prevent further training this calendar year because it is unlikely the Emiratis would host the training during the hot summer months and not during Ramadan starting in mid-October. He said the training could resume in early 2005.

¶7. (C) Stelzer said the Iraqi liaison officer, Colonel Mustafa, who was in the UAE for the duration of the training, had expressed satisfaction with the training and stated that it should continue. Colonel Mustafa said that there are another 2,000 Iraqi police in need of similar training. "We are ready to do it," Stelzer said. "The UAE is waiting for reaction from Baghdad."

Comment  
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¶8. (C) We believe that it is appropriate for the new, sovereign Iraqi government to take stock of the German training for Iraqi police in the UAE. If the Iraqis decide to continue the training, we are confident the Emiratis will agree to host the courses again. However, the Iraqi authorities should ensure that they are sending the appropriate officers to the courses, and that the Iraqis set their priorities so the programs can be designed according to their needs.

¶9. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.  
WAHBA